

Winsford Guardian

Away draw keeps ladies on top of the division

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FACING a strong and experienced Saffron side was always going to be difficult for Winsford Ladies FC and they can well be pleased with a 1 – 1 draw that kept them top of the Cheshire and Manchester League Division One.

Both defences were on top in the first half with the Winsford back four of Jen Burgess, Emma Johnson, Rachel Cheshire and Kathryn Hulme in total control, but the Blues' forwards found it difficult to make headway against a similarly well organised Saffron back line.

Despite the quality of the defending Saffron did manage to break the deadlock before the break when, with the only shot on target in the first half, the left winger drove the ball low past Winsford keeper Lucy Presland.

Winsford completely dominated the second period, but couldn't find the equaliser despite good efforts from Becky Hilditch and Sharon Tidd.

Spectator

Presland was largely a spectator in the second half, but following a corner, with 10 minutes to go, Saffron were awarded a penalty for pushing.

Fortunately the resulting penalty kick hit the underside of the bar and was cleared to safety.

With three minutes remaining, Winsford were awarded a free-kick midway inside the Saffron half. Danielle Lydiate floated the ball over the wall and a great jump from Sarah Lee saw her beat the keeper with a looping header for the equaliser.